

To the Port Sanitary Authority
Sandwich.

Annual Report year 1904.

10th Feby. 1905.

Gentlemen.


During the year 1904. the Harbour masters reports the entry of 184 local or Coast trading vessels into the Port these being chiefly engaged in carrying general cargoes to and from London in bringing coal from the North of England or in conveying to and from Dover materials for the New Admiralty Harbour Works in addition 19 vessels arrived from Foreign Ports - 7 from Newport with granite. 3 from Bremen with slate 1 from Oporto with slate 1 from Antwerp with Bark all these foreign ships were boarded on arrival and inspected as to the Sanitary Condition. Two of these vessels were found to be in an unsanitary state from want of cleanliness but left the Port in a more satisfactory state. One Sailor was reported unwell but shortly recovered and was not suffering from any infectious disease. I am glad to report that no case of Suicide or Accidental death occurred in the Haven during the twelve Months. The Weekly Returns to the Local Government Board have been regularly sent throughout the year and their summary has been received.

I remain.

Gentleman.

Your obedient Servant.

Wm W. Hain



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To The Urban Sanitary Authority, Sandwich.
Annual Report year 1904.

16th Feb'y 1905.

Gentlemen.

I now present the Annual Report for the year ending 31st Dec: 1904 of the Urban Sanitary District of Sandwich which has an area of 756 acres and a population (according to the last Census) of 31 70 persons on which number the statistics relating to this report are based - they are distributed amongst the four Parishes as follows. St Peter's 1088 St Mary's 1092 St Clement 956 St Bartholomew 34.

During the year 40 deaths have occurred all being returned as due to disease - some been due to accident which is somewhat exceptional - this number yields a death rate of 12.6 (as compared to 11. per thousand of last year) and is I think as a total satisfactory from a Public Health point of view.

These deaths were distributed in the various Parishes as follows St Clement 14 St Mary 14 St Peter 12 - No deaths have occurred in St Bartholomew's Parish. As to time the highest rate of mortality was during the first quarter of the year and the lowest in the last quarter.

The following table shows the number of deaths during the last five years.

1900	45
1901	47
1902	46
1903	39
1904	40

The numbers of births registered during the year was 70 (male 34 female 36) which yields a birth rate of slightly over 22 per thousand as compared with 21 per thousand of last year. The annual number of births during the past five years is as follows.

1900.	77
1901.	84
1902	76
1903	67
1904	70

The following is a summary of the Registrar's returns of Deaths in the year

Whooping Cough.	6
Diarrhoea	2
Phthisis	3
Other Tubercular Disease	1
Cancer	6
Brochitis	6
Pneumonia	4
	<hr/> 28

brought forward	28
Premature birth	1
Heart Disease	3
Weakness from birth	2
Senile Degeneration	3
Peritonitis	2
Cerebral Tumour	1
	<hr/> 40

Of these causes it will be seen that Whooping Cough, Bronchitis, and Cancer well all somewhat in excess during the year. Only one person reached the age of 80 or over—that being a female aged 88. Thirteen deaths were certified in infants 12 months old or under the causes were Whooping Cough 4, Bronchitis 4, Pneumonia 2.—

Premature birth 1, Weakness at birth 2.

All therefore being caused by disease of the Respiratory Organs or immaturity.— this number compares very unfavorably with last year and is excessive: no doubt the prevalence of Whooping Cough chiefly amongst the poorer classes and the inclement weather prevailing at the time largely account for the excessive loss of life at that age.

The number of cases of Infectious Disease under the Notification Act during the year was 10 being less than one third of the number reported during either of the two proceeding years, they were as follows. 1 Typhoid

1 Diphtheria 1 Scarlet Fever and 7 Erysipelas
The seven cases of Erysipelas however occurred
in four different persons, two of these having
second attacks during the twelve months -
there were no deaths due to any of these
diseases and both the number and degree of
severity compare very favorably with the
Zymotic rate reports of several years.

The case of Typhoid occurred in January in
the child of a Publican but could not be traced
to no cause or Insanitary condition in the
house - (where also there were other children -)
there had however been some complaint of a
street drain having been rather offensive not
far from the house (but in no way communicating
with it) and it was not unusual for the
child to be playing near it - no other
cases followed and the child made a good
recovery. The case of Diphtheria occurred
in a house where a woman had recently
died almost unattended and in a most
unsanitary state. The woman was sent
to the Infectious wards at East Ty Infirmary
and notice given to the owner of the house
that the place was not fit for human habitation
and it has since undergone repair and cleansing
under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.
The Scarlet Fever case occurred in June and
was limited to one child only in the household
- no cause could be discovered no other cases
appeared and from inquiry I understand
the rural district adjoining was quite free of it.

The cases of Erysipelas occurred in the Spring and Autumn when the East wind was prevalent two of these suffering were evidently in a susceptible condition and had a second attack. In one case only was there found an insanitary condition in the form of a choked rain water pipe which overflowed below a bedroom window which had usually been kept closed owing to the bad smell occasionally noticed — when the cause of the odour was discovered it was surmised that it may have originated a condition which led to the repeated attacks of ~~the~~ inmate of that particular room.

In the second quarter of the year whooping cough shewed signs of becoming epidemic and I thought it desirable to advise closure of the Infant School for one month, more especially as infective colds were prevalent and the weather very inclement — The younger children having less resisting powers would be unable to withstand the continued influence of these unfavourable conditions and I am glad to be able to report it was not found necessary to close any other Schools occupied by the older children.

As you will remember in July last I received Instructions from the Local Govt Board to forward a special Report concerning the drainage and sewage of the Town —

Together with the Inspector of Nuisances I made a detailed Report which was forwarded and has been the subject I believe of further correspondence between the Central and Local Authority.

The Inspector Reports that the condition of Dairies, Cowsheds, and Slaughter houses has been satisfactory throughout the year, with one or two minor exceptions, viz want of paint in one case and damaged ceiling in another (bake house). There has been no overcrowding reported in any of the Lodging houses of the Town and very few nuisances complained of, although it was found necessary to write to the owner of a house in Mill Wall Place and ordered a new drain to be laid and better accommodation to be made as regards the stabling of a horse on the premises, which was leading to a very insanitary state both of the house and neighbourhood. One other complaint was made of a stench caused by obstruction at the exit of a main sewer into an open sewer which flushing appeared to be unable to drive away. Since the removal by other means no further complaint has been received.

The more regular and efficient flushing of the main sewers during the past few years has certainly removed much noxious material

from our midst and I trust that during the present winter months the casting and cleansing of the open sewers into which this material is chiefly carried will receive the necessary attention.

Our arrangement with the Rural Authorities as to the use of the Isolation Hospital for our Urban cases was taken advantage of in one instance only during the year and proved extremely useful.

I remain Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant.

L. A. Thompson

